

## NOTICE OF MOTION RE LOCAL TRANSPORT BILL

That this Council:

- 1) is pleased that the Government decided earlier this year to publish the Local Transport Bill in draft form thus enabling a considerable amount of consultation, debate and evidence-giving to take place over the summer
- 2) welcomes some of the changes the Bill is proposing such as more devolved transport powers, the requirement for local integrated transport strategies to be produced, the abolition of “the only practicable way” test for bus quality contracts and the ability for local transport authorities to enter into Statutory Quality Partnerships with one more than operator
- 3) is dismayed, however, that:
  - i) the actual Local Transport Bill has been introduced into the House of Lords first, rather than the House of Commons, using a procedure which limits the opportunities for further debate and amendment
  - ii) the original proposal in the draft Bill that local authorities could specify routes, frequencies and maximum fares in bus Statutory Quality Partnerships has now been altered in the actual Bill to give bus operators a veto, thus rendering SQPs ineffective as they have been for the last seven years
  - iii) the approvals process for a Bus Quality Contract via a non-elected Approvals Panel remains in the Bill thus making the process for introducing a Quality Contract unnecessarily tortuous and also gives the Panel the power to veto an area’s integrated transport strategy
  - iv) the transition arrangements in the event of a Quality Contract not being awarded to the existing operator are still too weak and could result in local bus services being decimated in the period between the contract being awarded and coming into effect
  - v) the wording of the Bill fails to specify that only elected members of the new Integrated Transport Authorities can decide whether to co-opt non-elected transport experts and whom to co-opt and fails to restrict voting on these new Transport Authorities to elected Members only
- 4) believes, therefore, that unless the Bill is amended to rectify these serious errors it will be impossible to achieve the Bill’s stated purpose of tackling congestion and improving public transport
- 5) directs that copies of this Notice of Motion be sent to the Secretary of State for Transport and the Shadow Secretaries of State for Transport for the two main opposition parties, all local MPs and the Director General of the local Passenger Transport Executive